

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

SUPER-DISTRIBUTION OF PROTECTED DIGITAL CONTENT

5 Briefly according to the present invention, method to delivery encrypted digital content to from a first system for playing the content to a second system for playing the content. A method to delivery encrypted digital content from a first end user system for playing the content to a second end user system for playing the content. The method on the first user system comprising the steps of: reading from a computer readable medium metadata which has previously been associated with
10 the content; selecting from the metadata associated content to decrypt; establishing a secure connection with an authorization authority, such as a clearinghouse, for decrypting the key used to encrypt the content; receiving a secure container containing the decrypting key for decrypting at least part of the previously encrypted content as permitted; decrypting the content and then encrypting the content with a new encryption key that is generated locally on the end user system; encrypting the
15 new encryption key with the key of the authorization authority; creating an secure container for use of playing the content on the end user system as well as for distribution to a second system of playing the content, wherein the secure container has an the encrypted new encrypting key therein from the end user system as well as the metadata associated with the content and the content itself.

20 The method on the second system comprising the steps of: reading on a second system from a computer readable medium a secure container created on a first system for playing the content, wherein in the content is encrypted with a first key associated with the first system; selecting from the secure container the content to decrypt; establishing a secure transmission with an authorization authority, such as a clearinghouse, for decrypting the keys used to encrypt the content; receiving a decrypting key for decrypting at least part of the previously encrypted content stored on the computer
25 readable medium as permitted; decrypting the content and then encrypting the content with a new encryption key that is generated locally on the end user system; encrypting the new encryption key with the key of the authorization authority; creating an secure container for use of playing the content

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on the end user system as well as for distribution to a subsequent system of playing the content using the encrypting key from a clearinghouse, wherein the secure container has the encrypted new encrypting key therein from the end user system as well as the metadata associated with the content and the content itself.

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